

2010
Medal
of **Valor**



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION



MEDAL *of* VALOR AWARDS CEREMONY

April 30, 2010 – Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

MARGOT SHINNAMON BACH

Office of Public and Employee Communications

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

HONOR GUARD

California State Prison, Sacramento

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE AMBASSADORS

Don Salz, Chief Psychologist, CDCR Division of Correctional Health Care Services

Rosye Salz, Steve Allison, Ron Black

INVOCATION

REVEREND RODERICK STEWART

Protestant Chaplain - California State Prison, Sacramento

SPEAKER

MATTHEW L. CATE

Secretary

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Luncheon Immediately Following

Hosted by the California Correctional Supervisors Organization



Medal of Valor

The Medal of Valor is the Department's highest award, earned by employees distinguishing themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of correctional service. The employee shall display great courage in the face of immediate life-threatening peril and with full knowledge of the risk involved. The act should show professional judgment and not jeopardize operations or the lives of others.

Correctional Officer Hoyt Wayne Walker

Pelican Bay State Prison

Correctional Officer Hoyt Wayne Walker is honored posthumously for his heroism in trying to save his brother's life as the pair fished on the rocks behind the lighthouse in Crescent City on April 6, 2009. Walker's brother-in-law, Troy Kuykendall, was suddenly washed off the rocks and into the ocean by a large wave, and unable to get out of the water.

Officer Walker, seeing his brother-in-law in peril, jumped in the rough water in an attempt to save him. Tragically, both men perished. Officer Walker lost his life as a result of his heroic attempt, making the ultimate sacrifice and giving his life in an effort to save the life of another.



Youth Correctional Counselor David Michael Padore

Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic

Youth Correctional Counselor David Michael Padore is honored for his fearlessness in the face of danger and possible death in the extrication and rescue of a man and his daughter from a burning vehicle following a July 2009 auto accident.

Padore was traveling with his family on Interstate 10, when another vehicle careened off the highway, broke through a fence after rolling from end to end, and coming to rest about 100 yards from the roadway, and bursting into flames.

Padore approached the vehicle and pulled to safety a female occupant, lying on the ground, who had her feet partially trapped under the burning vehicle. As flames entered the interior of the vehicle, he was able to dislodge another victim who was wedged between the center column and steering wheel before fire and smoke overcame both rescuer and victim. Both victims survived the accident.



**Correctional Officer
Daniel Fernandez**

*California Substance Abuse
Treatment Facility and State
Prison at Corcoran*

Correctional Officer Daniel Fernandez is honored for selfless actions December 24, 2009, in the emergency room at Kaweah Delta Medical Center in Visalia, where he assisted hospital security in immobilizing an apparently unstable female who attempted to stab security staff with two long kitchen knives and threatened others in the waiting area.

The incident began when Officer Fernandez noticed a woman trying to remove a television set from a wall mount. As he and a security officer approached, the female brandished a 12-inch kitchen knife, slashing in the air at those who tried to approach, and making threats to hurt anyone who approached her. She pulled a second knife on the security guard. With the combined effort of the security officer and Officer Fernandez, the woman finally dropped the knife and both men were able to subdue her.



**Correctional Sergeant
Walter Scott Jandro**

*Central California
Women's Facility*

While driving on April 12, 2009, near the Madera City Airport, Correctional Sergeant Walter Jandro came upon a small airplane that had just crashed into a vineyard. Inside the aircraft were two men who had sustained serious injuries. Jandro located and turned off the aircraft's fuel lines after highly volatile fuel had leaked on and around the plane and its wreckage. He then began emergency first aid on the victims. The co-pilot had suffered large gashes on his head and arms, and eventually had to be removed with the jaws of life.

Sergeant Jandro knowingly placed his own personal safety at risk and displayed great courage above and beyond the normal call of duty by approaching a potentially explosive situation and ultimately providing care to the victims and assisting their other rescuers.



**Supervising
Registered Nurse II
Francisco L. Hernandez**

North Kern State Prison

While working off-duty on March 21, 2009, in a local hospital's emergency room, Registered Nurse Francisco Hernandez found his routine day shattered by desperate cries for help. He responded to find a police officer struggling with a prisoner for control of the officer's duty weapon. The prisoner had apparently removed the firearm from the officer's holster when the officer got too close.

Without regard for his own safety, he responded to the threatening situation and attempted to subdue the prisoner by using physical strength and holds to immobilize and incapacitate the prisoner. During the struggle, the gun discharged and the round struck the ER floor. Hernandez' efforts have been well recognized, most specifically by the Delano Police Department, which expressed its gratitude for a job well done.





Gold Star

The Gold Star medal is the Department's second highest award for heroic deeds under extraordinary circumstances. The employee shall display courage in the face of immediate peril in acting to save the life of another person.

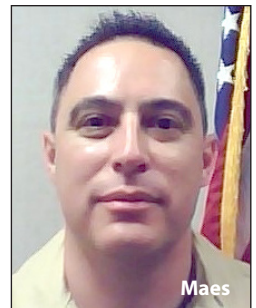
Parole Agent I Jenaro J. Carrasco

Parole Agent I Anthony Maes

Division of Adult Parole Operations, Region IV

Parole Agents Jenaro J. Carrasco and Anthony J. Maes are recognized for their heroism and selfless actions on August 3, 2009, when both agents worked together to save a woman who was trapped, and seemingly unsuccessful in her struggle to escape her burning vehicle.

The pair approached the car, which was fully engulfed in flames, and could see the woman frantically attempting to escape and that the car doors were not opening. Both men were able to reach in and guide the woman to safety through a rear window.



Correctional Officer Brian Chord

Folsom State Prison

While off duty and driving with his family in August 2009, Officer Brian Chord noticed a sedan ahead of him on the road, moving wildly into and out of nearby lanes. Nearby traffic slowed to a crawl or got out of the way as the vehicle continued to swing about wildly, before hitting a center divider, flying up into the air, and falling back against the cement divider, trapping the driver in the vehicle as it burst into flames.

Disregarding his own safety, Officer Chord reached into the vehicle to grab hold of the driver, and pulled her to safety as flames began to consume the vehicle's interior.



Silver Star

The Silver Star medal is the Department's third highest award for acts of bravery under extraordinary or unusual circumstances. The employee shall display courage in the face of potential peril while saving or attempting to save the life of another person or distinguish him/herself by performing in stressful situations with exceptional tactics or judgment.

Correctional Officers Caesar Alcantara Sr., Felicia J. Hewitt, Christopher D. Reyes, Leonardo Serrano, and Ray T. Ynostroza

Ironwood State Prison

Last July, Officers Caesar Alcantara Sr., Felicia J. Hewitt, Christopher D. Reyes, Leonardo Serrano, and Ray T. Ynostroza were traveling home after getting off shift at Ironwood State Prison when they came upon an accident that they had witnessed that occurred just moments before along Interstate 10. It appeared a speeding car that had passed them unsafely created the accident.

Immediately Officers Reyes, Ynostroza and Alcantara begin administering CPR to the first victim.

Officers Serrano and Hewitt began to survey the rest of the accident scene and found a small child who was in fear, calling out for her mother. During their survey of the wreckage they came upon the driver of the speeding car suspected of creating the accident and caught him when he later tried to run away.



Correctional Officer Lonnie Mack Elliot

Sierra Conservation Center

Officer Lonnie Mack Elliot was traveling along Highway 108 in the eastern Sierra foothills in January 2009 when he spotted a Tuolumne County Sheriff's corporal in a confrontation with an individual who then began to strike the corporal, knocking him to the ground. As the corporal began to use his baton on the suspect, Officer Elliot approached the scene and was able to immobilize the subject, who was now on top of the corporal, and prevent the suspect from inflicting further injury to the victim, and get access to the corporal's firearm.





Correctional Officer Miguel U. Morales

Calipatria State Prison

On October 6, 2009, Officer Miguel Morales and his partner were assigned as floor officers at a Calipatria State Prison Housing Unit, when a group of inmates began to attack his partner. By the time Officer Morales arrived to assist, five inmates were surrounding the victim, kicking and punching him. As Officer Morales tried to intervene, other inmates arrived to begin holding him back and assaulting him, leaving him with severe injuries that required him to be off work for many months.



Facility Captain Sharon E. Henry, Correctional Lieutenant Timothy G. Ellis, Correctional Officers Gabriel Romo and Herman H. Valdivia

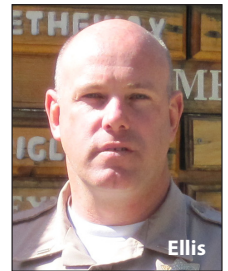
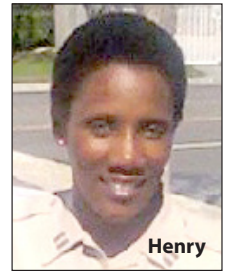
Sierra Conservation Center

On August 30, 2009, the heroic actions of four CDCR conservation camp staff members, Sharon Henry, Timothy G. Ellis, Gabriel Romo, and Herman Valdivia, were instrumental in the evacuation of the Mount Gleason Fire Camp, which was threatened and eventually destroyed during the Station Fire. Although early indications were that the fire didn't threaten the camp, weather and fire conditions changed, and the fire began to head towards the camp at a rapid pace.

Minutes later, those who had been assembled in the dining room watched a wall of fire some 200 feet high come roaring through the camp engulfing all the structures, including the dining hall. Uniformed staff calmly led inmates and staff out of the dining hall towards the parking lot, an area the fire had already passed through.

Captain Henry radioed for assistance, giving emergency responders an assessment of the situation. All vehicles on the ground were disabled by the fire, leaving the group stranded. Lieutenant Ellis, who serves as camp commander for a nearby camp, heard the radio call and immediately made plans to evacuate Mount Gleason, by working with nearby camps to enlist enough heavy duty crew carrying vehicles to evacuate more than 60 individuals.

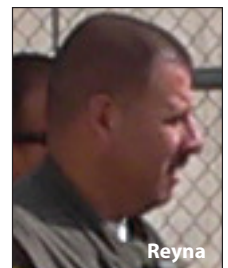
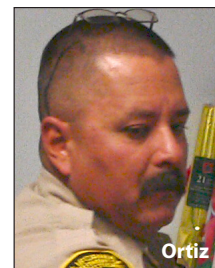
The road to the camp was littered with fire debris and collateral damage from the fire. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies, who had also heard the call, were stationed at the bottom of the mountain, as it appeared to be impassable. Led by Lieutenant Ellis and a CALFIRE captain, CDCR and CALFIRE led a caravan of rescue vehicles, followed by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputies, up the road to the camp, where they discovered the Mount Gleason crew and inmates standing in a parking lot with the camp burned down around them.



Correctional Officers Jorge S. Fernandez, Richard Ortiz Jr., and Tony Reyna

Kern Valley State Prison

Several officers on duty in a Kern Valley State Prison gym were victims of a planned attack by a dozen inmates that resulted in serious injuries to two officers. Officers Fernandez, Ortiz and Reyna noticed inmates huddled against a gym door trying to get in. Suddenly, the door opened and those inmates pushed into the gym, followed by the three officers, who witnessed two staff being attacked by inmates inside the gym. Acting quickly, officers Fernandez, Ortiz and Reyna took control, separating the attacking inmates from the two injured staff.





Correctional Officers Ernest F. Johnson and Jeremy J. Viles

California State Prison, Sacramento

Last December, an inmate, in an unprovoked manner, attempted to murder Officer Jeremy Viles by lunging towards him and slashing his throat twice with a handmade weapon. He fended off the attacking inmate as the inmate continued to slash and lunge at the injured officer, before the inmate ran away.



Johnson and Viles confronted and secured the inmate. During this effort, Officer Johnson noticed his fellow officer's wounds and profuse bleeding from the neck area. Officer Johnson instructed the victim officer to put pressure against the wound by pressing his neck against his shoulder. Officer Johnson's advice saved his fellow officers life. (*Officer Viles' picture was not available*).

Correctional Officers Manuel T. Parra, Joseph N. Vicente

California Rehabilitation Center

On August 2, 2009, while assigned to Riverside County Regional Medical Center, Officers Manuel Parra and Joseph Vicente were supervising an inmate there for medical treatment, when the pair observed a physical struggle between two county sheriff deputies and a county jail inmate.

As the struggle grew more intense, the county jail inmate managed to separate the two sheriff's deputies by kicking one and shoving that deputy into a wall. At that point Parra, who was the unarmed CDCR escort, was able to hold him down, while protecting himself from the inmate's thrashing around as Vicente secured the inmate.



Correctional Officer Robert M. Rodriguez

Folsom State Prison

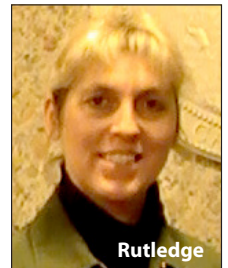
Officer Robert Rodriguez was off duty when he observed an apparent crime in progress as a man in his early 20s had severely beaten an older gentleman and was looking through the victim's vehicle. Officer Rodriguez began to approach the assailant, who was now attacking and punching another man who had seen the victim on the ground and was approaching the crime scene. Using his peace officer training, Officer Rodriguez was able to stop the suspect from hurting anyone else until law enforcement arrived. Both victims sustained serious injuries from the assailant.



Correctional Officer Rebecca Rutledge

Sierra Conservation Center

On August 1, 2009, Correctional Officer Rebecca Rutledge was on her way to work when she encountered a motorcyclist down on a heavily travelled road. The motorcyclist had gone down on a part of a road that posted a blind spot to oncoming traffic from both locations.



Knowing these risks, Officer Rutledge took over with CPR on the victim, from another motorist who had come up on the accident. She asked the other motorist to watch for oncoming traffic, and then focused her attention to giving CPR to the downed motorcyclist who was severely injured and unconscious. Officer Rutledge administered CPR for more than 10 minutes until medical responders arrived and took over.



Correctional Officer Illich B. Sanchez

Kern Valley State Prison

On September 23, 2009, Correctional Officer Illich B. Sanchez was at his post watching as another officer issued a cell search receipt. Suddenly the inmate receiving the receipt began to punch the officer without provocation, and during the scuffle, retrieve an inmate-manufactured weapon inches in length.

The inmate began to lunge towards the officer to stab him. From his position, Officer Sanchez was able to intervene and stop the inmate from stabbing the other officer, while the victim officer was able to knock the inmate off of his rescuer, Officer Sanchez. (*Officer Sanchez' picture was not available*).

Correctional Sergeant Paul John Popplewell

Correctional Training Facility

On January 5, 2009, Correctional Sergeant Paul John Popplewell was on duty walking along the third tier when a commotion on the second tier of the housing facility drew his attention.



Below him, while two officers were talking to an inmate, the inmate reacted violently and began to assault both officers. Because of the close proximity of other inmates and staff, the tower was unable to use a gun to stop the fighting.

Sergeant Popplewell ran to the scene as he watched the inmate assault the two staff by hitting, kicking them and attempting to push them off the second tier onto the floor below. Both staff sustained serious head injuries and upper torso trauma by the time the Sergeant arrived at the assault scene to stop the inmate from attacking the two staff.



Correctional Officer Douglas George Stever

Folsom State Prison

While on post at UC Davis Medical Center, Officer Douglas George Stever observed a patient acting disoriented and destroying medical equipment with a pair of scissors as the nurses who had been nearby, huddled in fear because the patient had threatened them. Officer Stever, drawing upon his peace officer training, started calmly talking to the patient, who was under the influence of methamphetamines. Over some time, the patient agreed to surrender the scissors, upon which the officer subdued the patient and maintained control of the situation until the UCD Police Department officers arrived to arrest him.

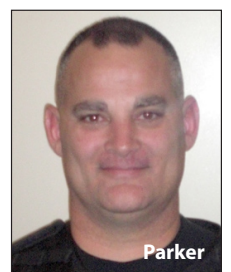
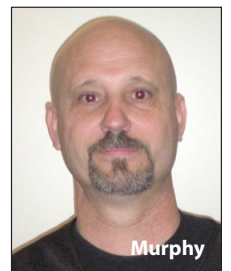


Correctional Sergeants Anthony M. Murphy and Grant E. Parker

Office of Correctional Safety

Last December, Correctional Sergeants Anthony M. Murphy and Grant Parker were traveling in a remote area of Northern California when they approached an accident scene where a vehicle had careened off the road into a ravine where the mini-van was precariously resting on a small ledge about 50 feet down. With the knowledge that there were three victims, Sergeant Parker called for emergency response while Sergeant Murphy worked his way down the embankment toward the vehicle.

Sergeant Murphy ordered the occupants not to move, as he approached cautiously trying to determine the best way to extricate the three without causing the van to slide off the ledge. Using his body weight to brace and stabilize the van by hold onto the door, he removed the small child, who had a head wound and was clearly shivering from shock. Working together the two men managed to evacuate all three victims.



Bronze Star Medal

The Corrections Star (Bronze) is the Department's award for saving a life without placing oneself in peril. The employee shall have used proper training and tactics in a professional manner to save, or clearly contribute to saving, the life of another person.

Correctional Lieutenant Kenneth A. Clendenin

Mule Creek State Prison

On May 16, 2009, during an annual car show in Jackson, Correctional Lieutenant Kenneth A. Clendenin noticed an older attendee collapse and fall to the ground. Both Clendenin and a Jackson Police Department officer rushed to the man's aid, and immediately began to work together to provide CPR. The victim had no pulse and was not breathing, and apparently the man may have gone into cardiac arrest. Both officers continued to work together to administer CPR to the victim. The victim was transported to a hospital and survived.



Correctional Sergeant Mark Garcia

California Institution for Men

On February 26, 2009, Correctional Sergeant Mark Garcia was shopping when he and his wife observed employees who were attempting to apprehend a customer who had been caught trying to take merchandise without paying for it.



As the three employees approached the suspect, the suspect pulled out a knife and began slash out, striking one of the employees in the face, cutting his face. Sergeant Garcia confronted the suspect and was able to force him down to the ground, without injury and remove the knife.

Correctional Officer Marty Lewis

Avenal State Prison

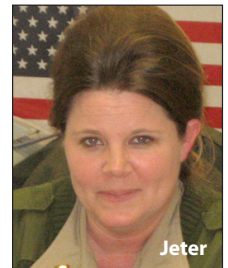
On August 23, 2009, Officer Marty Lewis was traveling on a rural road near Bakersfield when he saw a man lying on the ground, unconscious, bleeding profusely from his head and face area. Officer Lewis carefully picked up the victim and placed him on a seat in his truck and drove him to the nearest hospital. Later Officer Lewis was told that the man would have died from blood loss had he not been found at the scene.



Correctional Lieutenant Jackie Jeter

Wasco State Prison

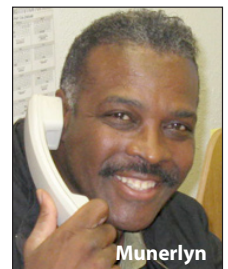
Lieutenant Jackie Jeter was off duty in April 2009, attending local car races when a fight erupted in the stands; one person received multiple stab wounds. Jeter rushed to the victim who was bleeding profusely from two stab wounds, with one severing an artery in his right leg. Jeter applied a makeshift tourniquet around his thigh to control the bleeding. The attacker was apprehended and identified as an active parolee, who was arrested along with his girlfriend, since both had a role in the attack.



Correctional Counselor I Cubby Munerlyn

California Institution for Women

On August 8, 2009, Counselor Cubby N. Munerlyn was off duty with his daughter when he witnessed an SUV in the lane ahead of him suddenly exit the highway and down an embankment where it came to rest next to some train tracks with a train approaching in the distance. The officer noticed a man apparently unconscious in the vehicle. As he approached the vehicle, putting himself at risk, the freight train struck the SUV, tossing it into the air and into a nearby wall, landing on its roof. Arriving paramedics declared the SUV driver deceased on their arrival.





Distinguished Service Medal

The Distinguished Service Medal is for an employee's exemplary work conduct with the Department for a period of months or years, or involvement in a specific assignment of unusual benefit to the Department.

Correctional Lieutenant William G. Bean Correctional Sergeants Daniel R. Fairchild and Juan R. Ruiz *California Rehabilitation Center*

On March 10, 2009, the prison's Investigative Services Unit (ISU) was notified that a CALFIRE work crew inmate had walked away from an assignment.

Working with other CDCR ISU staff, William G. Bean, Daniel R. Fairchild and Juan R. Ruiz developed intelligence that led the three the next day to conduct surveillance at a local mall location and stake out the area to watch for the absconded inmate, who was identified. Working in close coordination, the three executed a plan that allowed them to walk up to the inmate, and apprehend him smoothly, without coercion and without threatening the safety of other citizens in the immediate area.



Special Agent Steve Contreras *Office of Correctional Safety*

Special Agent Steve Contreras is recognized for his significant role in developing intelligence, and took independent and affirmative action to reduce gang influence in the San Diego area and within the CDCR parole regions and institutions during two major multi-agency operations.



In the first effort, called "Keys to the City," Agent Contreras' efforts resulted in 35 arrests, 26 of which were individuals on parole or discharged parolees.

In the second effort, "Operation Stampede," involved a multi-agency effort including the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the U.S. Navy and the San Diego Police Department, to focus on the activities of criminal street gang. Several dozen arrests and numerous prosecutions resulted from these two operations, crippling gang activity in Southern California.

Maintenance Mechanics Nghia T. Luu and Eldon N. Wassell *California Institution for Women*

On May 25, 2008, an inmate attempted suicide in a stairwell on the outside of an auditorium at the California Institution for Women. Following a review of the incident, it became clear that some structural changes needed to be made to the building for the safety and security of staff and inmates to minimize future risks. After reviewing the challenge, Maintenance Mechanics Nghia T. Luu and Eldon N. Wassell worked together and fabricated fencing and gates at the location where the incident occurred, but also at other similar building or locations where the same risks could occur. The pair has a reputation as innovative problem solvers.





Unit Citation

The Unit Citation is for great courage displayed by a departmental unit in the course of conducting an operation in the face of immediate life-threatening circumstances.



Administrator Alan D. Caron, Staff Services Analysts Jamie E. Halford, Lori J. Nicol, Promotional Specialists Lisa M. Lewis and Donna M. Orth

Prison Industry Authority

Last January, staff working in CALPIA's Marketing/Customer Service Unit heard a strange noise and found an inmate at his work station unconscious, unresponsive and not breathing. A whistle was blown, and soon a number of PIA staff members at the scene began to initiate CPR and other life-saving measures, including using a defibrillator machine on the unconscious inmate while awaiting emergency responders from the local fire station. The inmate was later taken to an area hospital, where it was determined the inmate had suffered a heart attack.



California Institution For Men (To be honored in a Unit Citation ceremony at CIM on May 14, 2010)

On August 8-9, 2010, several hundred inmates rioting in the California Institution for Men Reception Center West Facility set fires and caused more than \$5 million in damage, leading to the loss of 1,300 Reception Center beds. Of the several hundred staff that were pressed into assistance that weekend and in the days after, the more than 60 individuals from four area facilities who served as first responders are honored with the Unit Citation award for their efforts during the first 24 hours of the riot.



The following individuals from the California Institution for Men (CIM) were recognized with the Unit Citations for their efforts on August 8-9, 2009, when inmates rioted and set fire to their living units at CIM

Supervising Registered Nurse II Russell M. Alano	Supervising Registered Nurse II Karen A. Eke	Correctional Sergeant Ricardo Matute
Correctional Officer Erich A. Allen	Supervising Registered Nurse II Nick R. Evans	Supervising Registered Nurse III Patrick D. McMahon
Correctional Sergeant Daniel A. Alva	Correctional Officer Emilio E. Flores	Correctional Officer Dominic G. Mendoza
Correctional Sergeant Joshua A. Bain	Correctional Sergeant Dwayne M. Franklin	Correctional Officer Joseph L. Miller
Correctional Officer Jose M. Becerra	Correctional Officer Steven R. Frick	Correctional Officer Steven R. Mohr
Correctional Officer Dwayne Bonffil	Supervising Registered Nurse III Jorge F. Gomez	Supervising Registered Nurse II Antoinette M. Montesa
Correctional Sergeant Jesus J. Borbon	Correctional Lieutenant Vernon Grant Jr.	Correctional Officer Calvin Mosley
Correctional Lieutenant Cris J. Caldwell	Correctional Counselor I Ross K. Guerrero	Correctional Officer Raquel Olague
Correctional Officer Arcadio Cancino	Correctional Officer Carlos C. Gutierrez	Correctional Officer Patrick T. Oneil
Correctional Officer Michael M. Capstic	Correctional Officer LaTanya D. Hall	Correctional Officer Hector M. Perez
Correctional Officer Kim C. Carson	Fire Captain Christopher T. Hassell	Supervising Registered Nurse III Elena Purcar
Correctional Officer Eric F. Caver	Correctional Lieutenant Eddie J. Hernandez	Correctional Officer Saul G. Ramirez
Correctional Officer Devin O. Chavez	Correctional Counselor II Lewis R. Jeffers	Correctional Officer Jose A. Ruiz
Correctional Officer Thomas F. Collins	Correctional Officer La Ron M. Jones	Fire Captain Gary M. Simoes
Correctional Officer Luis Corona	Correctional Officer Luisito S. Jose	Correctional Sergeant Sombo Thon
Correctional Officer Leo Crawford Jr.	Correctional Officer Timothy Lamb	Correctional Officer Monica Wise
Correctional Sergeant Shely E. Crosby	Correctional Sergeant Jesse Lara	
Correctional Officer Robert A. Culver	Correctional Lieutenant Andrew R. Lazarus	
	Correctional Sergeant George L. Liera	

The following individuals from nearby institutions, who participated in the crisis response team role with the August 8-9, 2009 CIM event are also recognized with Unit Citations

Correctional Officer Anthony R. Ramos, Sierra Conservation Center	Lieutenant Dan A. Gonzalez, California Rehabilitation Center	Correctional Officer Howard K. Dowdell, California Rehabilitation Center
Correctional Officer John B. Diyorio, California Institution for Women	Correctional Officer Alexander Lopez, California Rehabilitation Center	Correctional Officer Michael B. Horta, California Rehabilitation Center
Correctional Lieutenant James F. Barrera, California Rehabilitation Center	Correctional Officer Sammy L. Bell, California Rehabilitation Center	Henry S. Luce, Parole Agent I, Parole Region IV

The following CDCR employees received Letters of Commendation from Secretary Matthew L. Cate

Paul W. Alexander, Fire Captain, Correctional Training Facility; Albert L. Anderson, Correctional Officer, Valley State Prison for Women; Sergio M. Aranda, Correctional Officer, Salinas Valley State Prison; Steven C. Bates, Correctional Officer, San Quentin; Margie M. Beshears-Keeling, Youth Correctional Officer, Preston Youth Correctional Facility; Joel J. Borges, Correctional Officer, California Correctional Center; Tanya J. Caldwell, Correctional Officer, California State Prison-Corcoran; Kimberly R. Cortes, Correctional Counselor I, California Institution for Men; Melinda S. Cortez, Correctional Officer, Richard J. Donovan; Oscar Covarrubias, Correctional Officer, Correctional Training Facility; Earl M. Douglas, Parole Agent I, Parole Region II; Donald B. Dufrene, Sergeant, Preston Youth Correctional Facility; Ronald Gabeler, Registered Nurse, Salinas Valley State Prison; Dan J. Garcia, Parole Agent I, Parole Region I; Angel F. Gomez, Register Nurse, Centinela State Prison; Gerardine M. Gauch, Senior Psychologist, Salinas Valley State Prison; David J. Hamlin, Psychologist, Salinas Valley State Prison; M. Jackson Kahle, Chief Psychologist, Salinas Valley State Prison; TT Le, Physician and Surgeon, California Institution for Men; Tony D. Lee, Correctional Lt., California Medical Facility; Roberto C. Machuca, Correctional Officer, Salinas Valley State Prison; Kevin C. Mass, Correctional Officer, Richard J. Donovan; Marcos Mendez, Correctional Officer, North Kern State Prison; Brooke T. Miller, Registered Nurse, Salinas Valley State Prison; James H. Moore, Youth Correctional Officer, Preston Youth Correctional Facility; Jeremiah A. Nelson, Correctional Officer, R.J. Donovan Facility; Connie R. Perezchica, Parole Services Associate, Wasco State Prison; Naveed Riaz, Physician and Surgeon, California Institution for Men; Robert M. Richey, Supervising Registered Nurse III, Wasco State Prison; Juan F. Rocha, Parole Agent I, Parole Region I; Mary A. Rowe, Psychologist, Salinas Valley State Prison; Fernando Sevilla, Correctional Officer, Salinas Valley State Prison; Ramiro Tamayo, Youth Correctional Officer, Preston Youth Correctional Facility; Michael C. Thomas, Fire Chief, Correctional Training Facility; Robert J. Thompson, Youth Correctional Officer, Preston Youth Correctional Facility; John H. Valle, Correctional Officer, Valley State Prison for Women; Arturo Villalobos, Correctional Officer, Salinas Valley State Prison; Kevin G. Walker, Parole Agent I, Parole Region II; Michael A. White, Correctional Counselor I, High Desert State Prison, Brian Wynn, Correctional Food Manager, Avenal State Prison.

Correctional Supervisor of the Year

Gregory Bergersen, Correctional Lieutenant

Valley State Prison for Women

“His proactive and dynamic approach to his duties that provides Valley State Prison for Women the ability to keep inmates active and engaged in their betterment” was cited as one of the primary factors in Correctional Lieutenant Gregory Bergersen’s selection as the 2010 CDCR Correctional Supervisor of the Year. Lt. Bergersen joined the CDCR in 1989 as a correctional officer.

In 2009, Lt. Bergersen was assigned as VSPW’s Inmate Assignment Lieutenant, quickly proposing suggestions to better use the inmate workforce in alignment with the mandates of AB900. He sought ways to bring a second Substance Abuse Program (SAP) up to capacity, and as it began to unfold, it was he who developed strategies to implement the new SAP in a consistent and thoughtful way.

VSPW sponsored its first-ever Family Night in 2009, and Lt. Bergersen assisted in providing instructional and informational booths for the families and friends of prison employees; it was a big success with more than 1,400 individuals attending.

Lt. Bergersen sets the bar high: “As the Inmate Assignment Lieutenant, my job is to ensure that others succeed.” It is this approach to the institution’s mission and his responsibilities that sets him from his peers and warranted his selection as Correctional Supervisor of the Year.



Correctional Peace Officer of the Year

Ronald J. “Rock” Rock, Correctional Counselor I

Centinela State Prison

“For his outstanding qualities, his initiative in conducting all duties assigned to him, for his hard work and continuous dedication to Centinela State Prison and the local community,” Correctional Counselor I Ronald J. “Rock” Rock is honored as the CDCR 2010 Peace Officer of the Year.

Rock began his career with CDCR in 1993 as a correctional officer, when he was part of the activation team for Centinela’s Level IV facility.

Cited for going above and beyond in his duties, Rock is a certified baton instructor, first aid/CPR instructor, range safety officer, Clark/Armstrong subject matter expert (SME), among others. He devotes a considerable amount of his time to community service.

As part of his work with the Imperial County Sheriff Mounted Posse, he has been called up on for several search missions. He recently assisted in the rescue of a woman with dementia who had wandered off into the mountains of San Diego. He is an active member of the Imperial County Red Cross, and frequently donates his time to community and staff functions.





*CDCR thanks the California Correctional Supervisors Organization
for hosting the MOV Luncheon event since 2004*